

**Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy**

**Partnering with Faith Communities for  
Affordable Housing**

Presented by Kim Bobo





Virginia Interfaith Center engages people of faith and goodwill in advocating economic, racial and social justice in Virginia's policies and practices.



# Affordable Housing is Policy Priority

Why? Faith communities:

Sponsor soup kitchens and shelters  
– see the need.

Talk with members – hear the  
need.

Believe it is part of mission.



VICPP  
advocating \$\$  
in the budget

Virginia Housing Trust  
Fund – build new units

Housing Stability Program  
(pilot) – rental assistance

Virginia Eviction  
Reduction Program





\$150 million  
for Virginia  
Housing Trust  
Fund





\$45 million for  
Housing  
Stability Fund





More money  
for Virginia  
Eviction  
Reduction  
Program





Policies to support  
Congregations  
Building Affordable  
Housing





Shuttered buildings

Rural and urban  
congregations

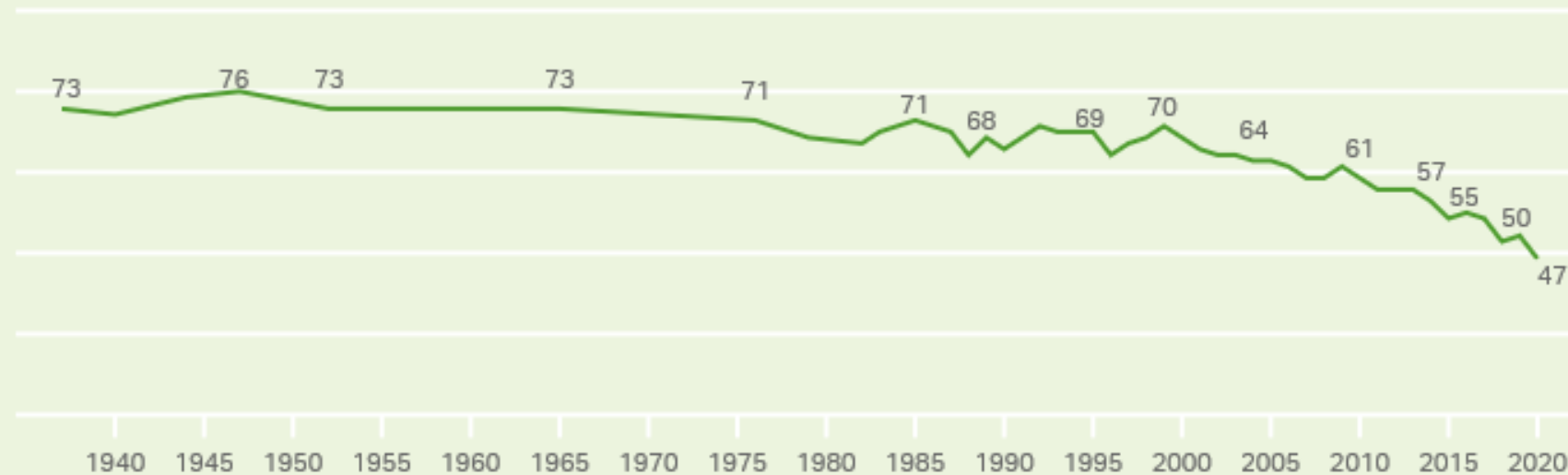


# Declining religious attendance

## Church Membership Among U.S. Adults Now Below 50%

Do you happen to be a member of a church, synagogue or mosque?

— % Yes, member



Based on annual aggregated data, usually based on two surveys

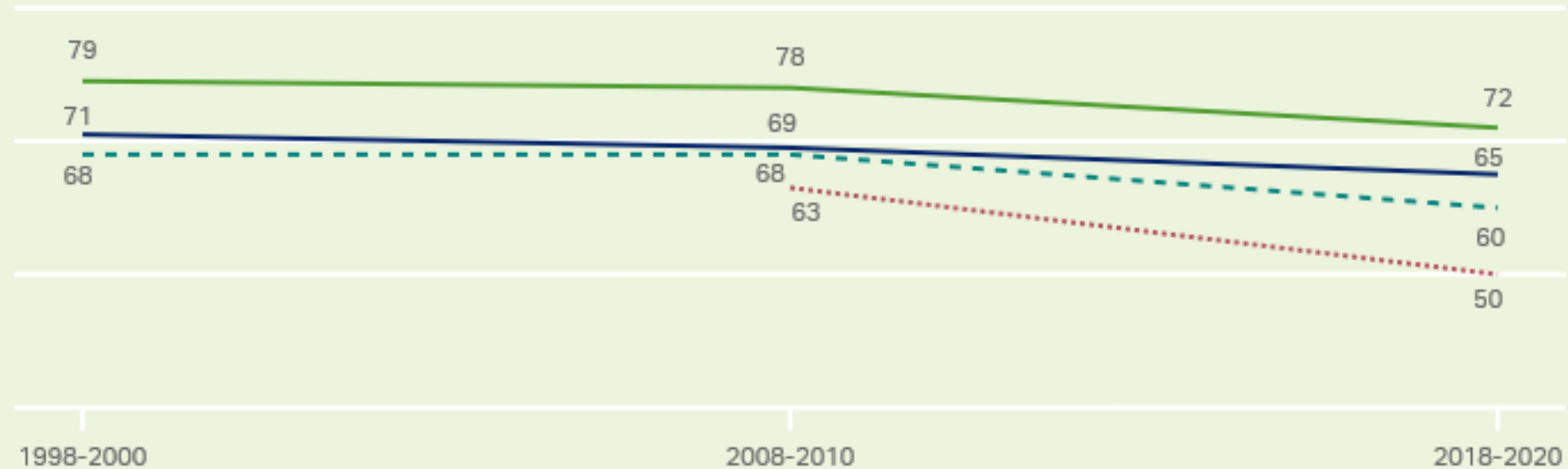
GALLUP



# Especially among young adults

Change in Church Membership Among Those With a Religious Affiliation, by Generation

— Traditionalists — Baby boomers - - - Generation X ..... Millennials



GALLUP

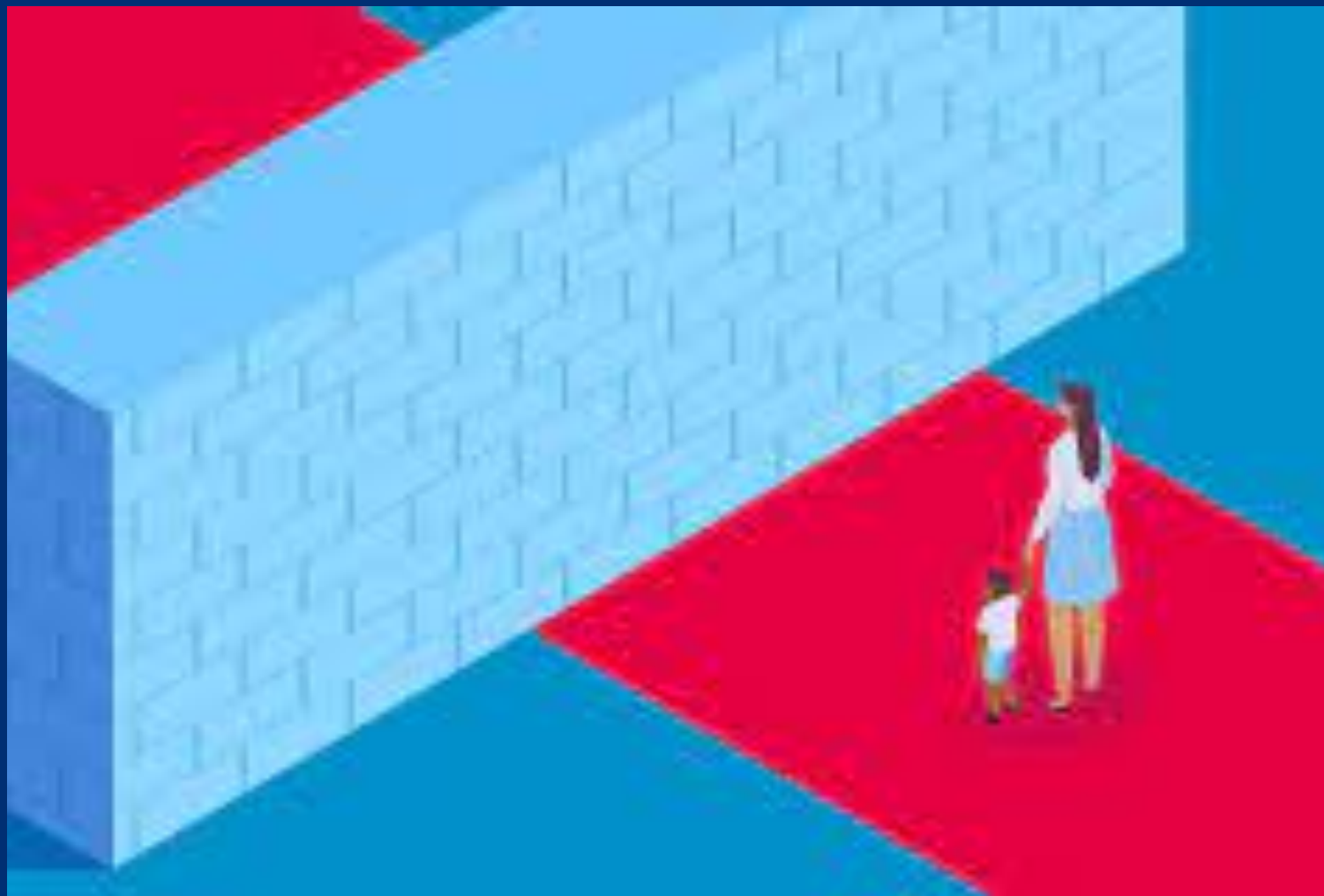


A VHA Staff Person  
could:

- \* Assess Congregations  
in transitions
- \* Identify congregations  
wanting to build  
affordable housing
- \* Provide technical  
expertise
- \* Cut through red tape







Expedite  
zoning and  
permitting





Keep tax  
exemption



Waive  
permitting  
fees

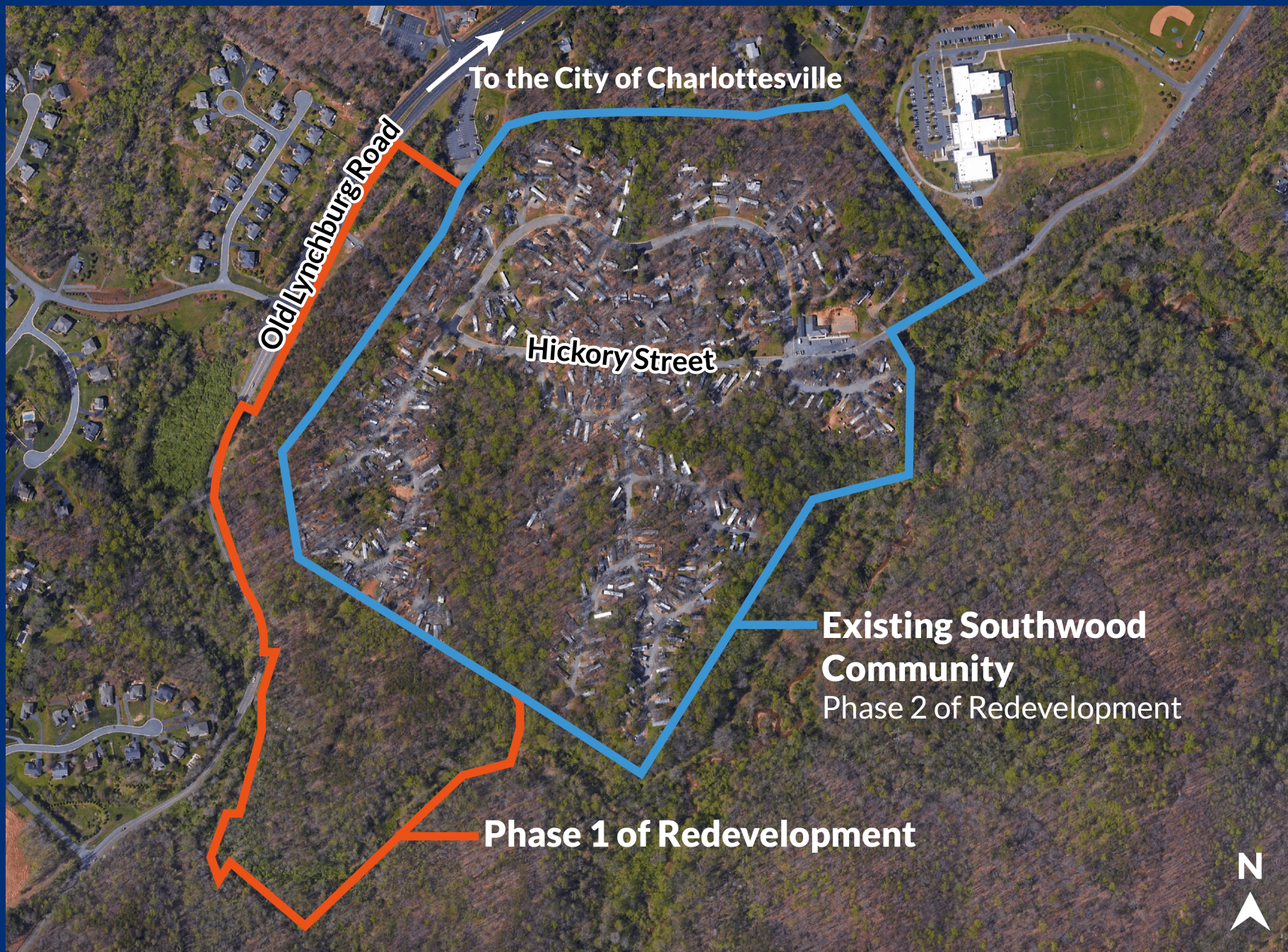






# Replicate Southwood (Charlottesville)









Helping first time  
homebuyers





## Classes, Clubs and Employer Support





## Employer Downpayment Assistance





Gifts without  
hassles





Burdened by  
Debt



# A few more policy recommendations





## Zoning Changes – higher density & ADU







## Inventory Public Lands





Use Virginia  
GO Funds





## Link Jobs and Housing Grants





Remove barriers  
for quality  
modular &  
manufactured  
housing





Wage theft



# Rampant wage theft in VA

## Southwest Virginia farm pays more than \$19,000 to workers after federal investigation

It also owes \$36,000 in civil money penalties



News Release

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR INVESTIGATION, LITIGATION SECURES \$278K IN BACK WAGES, DAMAGES FOR 208 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS DENIED OVERTIME BY SUFFOLK AGENCY

*Resto Contracting, owner misclassified employees as independent contractors deliberately*



Construction of the new Virginia General Assembly Office building underway in Capitol Square in Dec. 2020. (8News photo by Dean Mirshahi)

VIRGINIA NEWS

## Virginia General Assembly building subcontractor pleads guilty to charges of misclassifying workers

by: [Dean Mirshahi](#)  
Posted: Dec 8, 2021 / 12:59 PM EST  
Updated: Dec 13, 2021 / 04:21 PM EST

## Dozens of Wage Theft Investigations Conducted in DC Area

A News4 I-Team investigation reveals allegations of theft at high-profile local projects



## Department of Labor prosecuting local wage theft





Protect  
construction  
workers





Monitor state  
dollars





Independent  
contractors





Thank you